(*c*) Peruchilavuthodu.

(*d*) Vallayilthodu.

(*e*) The canal passing through Vettikkattumukku.

(*f*) Poochakalthodu.

(*g*) Perumprakalthodu.

Mr. K. G. Krishna Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) also discussed the same points as those of the previous speaker and made the following suggestions :—

(1) New grazing grounds should be set apart as the areas already selected were useless for the purpose.

(2) A manure depot should be opened in the taluk.

(3) Old canals, now lying neglected, should be restored.

(4) The Heads of Departments should be asked to send advance copies of their tour programmes before they reached the taluk on circuit. They should travel in the interior parts of the taluk and get first-hand information from the ryots as to their grievances and note such information in their diaries. The existing orders of the Government on the above points should be renewed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

57. State aid for the development of Punja cultivation.

Mr. A. Madhavan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherry) said that the cultivation of paddy which was the mainstay of the people was getting more and more unprofitable and that the Department of Agriculture was not helping the people of his taluk. As a rule, large land-owners did not cultivate their lands. The farmers were generally poor. The Agricultural Loans Regulation did not render much help to the poor and needy agriculturists. For purposes of cultivation they borrowed money from professional money-lenders at high rates of interest sometimes going up to 20 per cent. The Regulation made it obligatory that immovable property should be tendered as security for the repayment of the loan. It was not possible for all agriculturists to tender immovable property as security. Personal security must be deemed sufficient. The Member suggested that investments in *chitties*, debenture bonds, deposits in Co-operative Societies and Savings Banks and also personal security bonds of persons who owned landed property should be accepted as security for the repayment of the loans under the Regulation. The working of the Regulation was at present entrusted to the Revenue Department which was saddled with multifarious duties ; he suggested that the Agricultural Department might be authorised to grant loans under the Regulation, the funds for the same being transferred to that department.

The Member next urged the desirability of selling manures and agricultural implements to the ryots on credit and of realising the price thereof in easy instalments. The yield from the *punja* lands was growing less and less, although the Agricultural Department was of opinion that, by the proper application of manure, etc., the yield would go up. He said that wet lands of less yielding capacity should be taken on lease by the department and cultivated so as to serve as a model to the ryots.

According to section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, whenever any proprietor of any land failed to contribute the cost or labour for works to be done jointly such as the putting up of ring bunds or draining of water in *punja* lands, the work might be arranged to be executed under the orders of the Division Peishkar and the cost thereof recovered from such defaulter as arrears of land revenue. The Member suggested that the power to get such ring bunds put up and to recover the cost from the defaulters should be vested in the Agricultural Department.

Difficulty was being experienced for want of materials for putting up ring bunds. The Department of Agriculture should be asked to grow suitable trees

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in unreserved lands and supply the requirements of the ryots in the matter of twigs and leaf manure on payment of a reasonable price. The Member knew that about 80 acres of land in the Kurichi *pakuthi*, set apart as grazing grounds, were now being sought to be registered in the names of applicants. He said that the above tract as well as similar plots of ground should be set apart for the supply of green manure.

Lastly, the Member suggested that there should be an enactment making Government decisions once made in regard to encroachments affecting *punja* lands binding upon them and estopping the Government to plead in contravention of those decisions. For that purpose, he suggested that the limits of all *poramboke* lands should at once be surveyed and demarcated and that, after that was done, the owners of lands outside those limits should have no further trouble from the Revenue officers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

58. Agricultural needs of the Todupuzha taluk.

Mr. Ipe Uttuppu (Member, Todupuzha taluk) said that the total area of the taluk was 1,15,181 acres, of which about 65,000 acres were garden lands. The people of the taluk, therefore, depended mainly on cultivating dry lands. Formerly, the only cultivation conducted was *malavirippu* cultivation. That was done once in six or seven years. At present, however, foreign capitalists and speculators got lands registered in their names and started the cultivation of rubber, pepper, etc. in the taluk. There had been a general awakening in the taluk for starting cultivation on modern lines. But the people could not get much help from the Agricultural Department. To enlighten the ryots and advise them on scientific methods of cultivation, the Member prayed that a qualified Agricultural Inspector might be sanctioned for the taluk. He also prayed for the establishment of an experimental farm and a manure depot in the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Opening of a manure depot in the town of Quilon.

Mr. Stephen Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that the need for a manure depot at Quilon was brought to the notice of the Government at the last two sessions of the Assembly and that no action was taken for opening one. If a depot could be opened at Quilon, it would serve the whole division, as there were ample facilities for distribution both by land and water. The Member added that the absence of a depot at Quilon was a source of hardship to the ryots many of whom followed the antiquated way of finding their own manure owing to the difficulties in procuring the manure prepared by the Agricultural Department.

Dewan.—Arrangements have been made for supplying manure to the ryots at Quilon, from the depot at Kayenkulam, at the same prices at which it is sold at the latter depot.

The Member said that the people did not take advantage of it and prayed for the opening of a manure depot at Quilon.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. Need for the free treament of animals in the Veterinary Hospital at Nagercoil.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that Nanjanad was an agricultural centre, that all the people owned cows, bullocks and buffaloes and that they did not freely avail themselves of the Veterinary Hospital at Nagercoil, as the institution charged fees for consultation and medicine for all sick animals taken there for treatment. Under section 2 of the rules on the subject, animals used for agricultural purposes belonging to poor ryots or those who could not afford to pay for treatment got free treatment in the Veterinary Hospitals. But it was difficult for the officers to judge who were poor and who were not, which were plough bulls and which were not, and, consequently, they sometimes levied fees from the poor, the rich escaping payment. No fee was charged for the cattle treated by the officers when on circuit and there was no rule authorising them to

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